THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 27, 1793.

S E L I C O;

AN AFRICAN TALE.

[From " New Tales from the French of M. Florian.]

IF, as the Persians assert, we might believe that the universe is in subjection to two principles, of which one does the little good which is conspicuous, and the other the evil every where so abundant, we should be inclined to believe that Africa is the place where the evil principle, in a particular manner, exercises his power. No portion of the globe produces such variety of poisons, so many wild beasts and venomous reptiles. The little which we know of the history of Morocco, of the negroes of Ardra, of Jaggas, the native inhabitants of the coasts, as far as the country of the Hottentots, bears a remarkable resemblance to the natural history of lions, panthers, and serpents; which are so worthy of partaking this parching region with the cannibal princes which sell and eat the flesh of their prisoners. In the midst of these disgusting and horrible scenes, where some sell their children, and others eat their captives, we sometimes may discover traces of natural justice, of genuine virtue, of constancy in suffering, and a generous contempt of death. These examples, rare as they may be, are sufficient to interest us in this degraded part of the human species, to make us remember that they still are men: Just as in a barren desart, a few solitary blades of verdure, which the traveller is from

time to time delighted to discover, suffice to convince him that he still treads upon the earth.

In the kingdom of Juida, situated on the coast of Guinea, beyond the Cape of Three Points, and not far from Sabi, its capital, there lived, in the year 1627, a poor widow, named Darina; she was the mother of three sons, whom she had brought up with a tenderness fortunately common in human nature, but very uncommon in the climates where children are considered as an article of trade, and sold for slaves by their unfeeling parents. The eldest of these was called Guberi; the second Teloa; and the youngest Selico. All of these were amiable and sensible; they adored their good mother, who, now grown old and infirm, lived only by their industry. The wealth of this family consisted only of a hut, in which they lived together, with a little field contiguous, the maize of which was their support. Every morning, taking it by turns, one of the three brothers went to the chace, another worked in the field, the third remained at home with their mother: In the evening they met; the huntsman produced his partridges, parrot, or perhaps a little honey; the husbandman brought fuel; while he who stayed at home provided their common meat. They supped affectionately together, contending who should be most attentive to their mother: They received her blessing, and reclining upon straw, by the side of each other, they went to sleep, expecting the morrow.

Selico, the youngest of the brethren, went often to the town to carry the first fruits of the harvest, the offering of this poor family, to the temple of the great divinity of their country. This god, it is well known, is a huge serpent of that species which are not venomous, and do no injury; on the contrary, they destroy those serpents which are venomous; and they are so venerated at Juida, that it is considered as a horrible crime to put one to death. Thus the number of these sacred serpents has multiplied without end: In the midst of their towns and villages, and, even within houses, one meets, at every step, these deities, who come familiarly to feed at the tables of their worshippers, sleeping near their fires, and producing their young upon their beds; which last is considered by them as the happiest of omens.

Of all the negroes of Juida, Selico was the blackest, the best made, and the most amiable. In the temple of their great deity he had seen the young Berissa, daughter to the chief priest, who, by her figure, her beauty, and her grace, was far superior to all her companions. Selico conceived a passion for her, and

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was beloved in return. Every Friday, the day ſacred among the negroes to repoſe and religion, the young lover appeared at the temple, paſſed the day in the ſociety of his dear Beriſſa, told her of his mother, his tender paſſion, and of the happineſs they ſhould enjoy when united in marriage. Beriſſa did not appear to conceal that ſhe equally deſired this moment to arrive; and the venerable Farulho, her father, who approved of the connection, promiſed, with embraces, ſoon to reward their tenderneſs.

At length this period, ſo anxiouſly expected, drew nigh. The day was fixed; the mother of Selico and the two brothers had made ready the hut for the young couple, when the famous Truro Audati, King of Dahomai, whoſe rapid victories have been celebrated even in Europe, invading the kingdom of Ardra, exterminating the inhabitants, and advancing at the head of his formidable army, was checked only by the great river which bounded the realms of the ſovereign of Juida. This laſt, a weak and timid Prince, governed by his women and his miniſters, did not think even of collecting a few troops to oppoſe the conqueror. He believed that the deities of the country knew well enough how to defend the entrance, and carried to the banks of the river all the ſacred ſerpents that could be got together. The Prince of Dahomai, ſurpriſed and indignant at having only reptiles to combat, threw himſelf into the ſtream with his troops, and gained the oppoſite bank; and very ſoon theſe gods, from whom miracles were expected, were cut to pieces, roaſted on the fire, and devoured by the conquerors. Then the King of Juida, thinking that nothing elſe could ſave him, abandoned his capital, and haſtened to conceal himſelf in a remote iſland. The warriors of Audati ſpread themſelves every where, carrying with them fire and ſword. They burned the crops, towns, and villages, and maſſacred without mercy all that they could find.

Terror diſperſed the few inhabitants who eſcaped the carnage. The three brothers, on the approach of the conquerors, had taken their mother on their ſhoulders and haſtened to conceal themſelves in the woods. Selico would not leave Darina while ſhe was expoſed to the ſmalleſt danger; but the moment he ſaw her in ſafety, trembling for the fate of Beriſſa, he flew to Sabi, to ſave or periſh with her. Sabi was taken by the Dahomians. The ſtreets flowed with blood! the houſes were plundered and deſtroyed: The palace of the King and the temple of the ſerpent were nothing but ſmoaking ruins, covered with dead bodies, whoſe heads, according to cuſtom, the bar-

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barians had carried away. The wretched Selico in despair, and wishing for death, ventured many times among the soldiers intoxicated with brandy and blood! Every where did Selico rush amid the horrid scenes, seeking Berissa and Farulho, pronouncing their names sorrowfully aloud, and unable to recognize their bodies among so many mutilated trunks!

After dedicating five days to this terrible search, doubting not but that Berissa and her father had become the victims of the ferocious Dahomians, Selico determined to return to his mother. He found her in the wood where he had left her with his brothers. The fixed sorrow of Selico, his manner, and his wild looks, terrified this unhappy family! Darina lamented his misfortune, and tried various consolations; to all of which her son was insensible. He refused all nourishment, and seemed determined to expire by famine. Guberi and Teloa did not attempt to dissuade him by argument and reason, but they pointed to their venerable parent, who had neither house nor bread, nor any thing left but her children. They demanded of him, whether at that sight he had not the courage to live?

Selico promised that he would, and forced himself to think of nothing but of dividing with his two brothers the tender attentions which they paid their parent. They plunged into the woods, went still farther from Sabi, built themselves a hut in a remote valley, and thought of supplying by the chace the maize and the vegetables which they were without.

Deprived of their bows and arrows, and of all their other necessaries, which they had no time to carry away, they soon began to feel the extreme of misery. Fruits were in these forests rarely to be found, where the prodigious number of apes were always prepared to dispute them with the three brothers. The earth produced nothing but grass. They had no instrument to turn, nor grain to plant it. The rainy season came on, and the horrors of famine attacked them. The poor mother, still in misery, reclining upon a bed of dry leaves, was ready to expire, but without a complaint. Her sons, exhausted by hunger, could no longer penetrate the woods, which were deluged every where: They laid traps for the little birds which came near their hut, and when they took one, which rarely happened, for they had no longer any bait, they carried it to their parent, and presenting it to her, forced from her a smile; but she would not eat it unless divided with her children. Three months passed without any promise of change in their miserable situation. Compelled at length to take some step,

they held a consultation at the desire of Darina. Guberi proposed first, that they should penetrate as far as the coast, and sell one of their number to the first European they might meet; and to purchase with the money bread, maize, and instruments of agriculture, with which they might support their mother. The brothers replied to this, but with a melancholy silence.— "To separate from each other for ever! to become the slaves of white men!" the idea almost drove them to distraction. "Which shall be sold?" cried Teloa, in a tone of grief. "Lots must decide it," replied Guberi. "Let us place three stones of different sizes in this clay vessel, shake them together, and he who draws the least, must be the unhappy person."—"No, my brother," interrupted Selico, "the lot is already drawn. I am the most miserable of all; you forget that I have lost Berissa, and that you alone prevented me from dying, by saying I might be useful to my mother. Confirm what you have said—this is the time—sell me!"

(To be concluded in our next.)

Some Account of that eccentric Character, the late Earl of Barrymore.

(Continued from Page 468.)

TO relieve the mind from the corroding horrors of reflection, and to dissipate the gloomy prospect produced by the dreary blasts of winter, when the enchanting scenes of Newmarket were fully closed for the season, as well to complete the sporting character his Lordship had assumed; a pack of hounds became much more applicable to his pursuits, than the dry detail of studies so repeatedly pointed out and strenuously urged by the anxious exertions of his reverend friend, to reclaim him from farther progress in the course of unprecedented extravagance, that promised no alternative but inevitable insolvency, indelible disgrace.

The idea was however no sooner formed than carried into spirited execution; a pack of hounds was instantly agreed for with a gentleman at Shiplake, on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames, and directly removed to a new-built kennel at Wargrave. To these were speedily annexed every minutiæ of field appendage, that could at all tend to constitute an apparent degree of excellence; but it was matter of temporary concern

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to neighbouring ſportſmen of experience, that an eſtabliſhment formed at ſo great and profuſe an expence, ſhould almoſt immediately bear all the prominent features of burleſque, and degenerate into an excitement of the moſt perfect neglect and contempt. For as it was beneath the occaſion to inſtitute a chace with leſs than majeſtic dignity; ſo it was determined that no game inferior to red deer ſhould become the object of purſuit. The moſt powerful applications and indefatigable enquiries were made and journies taken to procure any number, and a diminutive paddock incloſed with high paling for their reception; being however of very difficult attainment, ſucceſs did not by any means attend their early endeavours to be ſupplied. Brookes—Gough, and the whole liſt of dealers in quadrupeds from one end of the metropolis to the other, were applied to upon the occaſion; with an aſſurance that no enquiry ſhould be made, "how they were come by?" or at what expence, provided they could but be obtained. Theſe united and perſevering efforts were not by any means productive of the deſired ſucceſs, the greater part proved abortive, and the collection from all quarters finally terminated in two brace; of which one was old and emaciated; the ſecond a baldfaced hind, totally without one eye and almoſt blind with the other; the third a beautiful tame ſtag, deſerted by the dam when a calf, picked up in the outſkirts of Windſor Foreſt and bred up by Mr. C. of Warfield, from whom it was purchaſed for 30 guineas; the fourth a fine young deer, that was unintentionally killed in the chace by the breaking away of the hounds, when no horſeman was up to ſave him.

Theſe aukward indications at the commencement, proved no favourable omens of future celebrity, a proſpect ſtill more ſtrengthened by turning out the tame deer before an uncommon aſſemblage of ſporting expectants upon Bulmarſh Heath, near Reading; but to the great mortification of thoſe who came fartheſt to enjoy the chace, the deer could not be prevailed on by any means to leave the horſes in the circle, with whom (having been uſed to paſture with others) he ſeemed to conſider himſelf quite at eaſe. In this general ſtate of deſpondency, without the leaſt hope of a run, it was propoſed to draw the hounds up and let them looſe upon him, at the whole body of which he ſeemed almoſt equally unconcerned; till beginning to pinch him he became irritated, and purſuing every horſe for aſſociation and ſhelter, ſoon ſeparated the horſemen who eagerly diſperſed to avoid injury from his antlers. In this anxious ſeparation, each ſuppoſing the deer behind him, he

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ſingled out the horſe of a well-known medical gentleman, and ſticking his horns cloſe to the quarters (the hounds being at his own haunches) excited ſo much alarm in the rider, that going at full ſpeed in verification of the old proverb, "needs muſt when the Devil drives," he was literally hunted in view for near two miles, to the inexpreſſible mirth and laughter of thoſe who had individually eſcaped a ſimilar predicament. The deer, however, afforded no other ſport either then, or on any future occaſion, than running into and conſequently dreadfully alarming the family of any cottage where the door luckily ſtood open for admiſſion; when after a repetition of which farce the hounds were permitted to put a period to his exiſtence, and farther diſappointment to the company.

The old and emaciated deer ſoon fell a victim to the fatigue he had been ſo totally unaccuſtomed to, and the bald-faced hind, having an invincible partiality for the water, as conſtantly *felt* for the Thames; which reaching, ſhe afforded ſuch inceſſant employment for the ferrymen in conveying the company from one ſide to the other, that it bore no faint reſemblance to the celebrated deſcription of a ſtag-hunt upon the Lake of Killarney in Ireland, where the deer is eternally taking the ſoil, and the hounds, with the purſuers in boats, continually moving from one ſmall iſland to another.

A ſingular mortification occurred in the early part of this embarkation, which rather damped the ardour of the enterprize than added to its reſpectability. The only deer that could afford even the chance of a run having been turned out at the Warren Houſe, near Bill-Hill, (in the preſence of ſome favourite ſons of Thalia, who attended in his Lordſhip's carriages) went off due weſt; but making a ſhort head and paſſing through a covert with ſome very ſtrong neighbouring fences, abſolutely threw out the whole company but one, who well knowing every tract of the country, came away with the hounds (their deer in view for two miles) over Carter's Hill; here he leaped the paling of Mr. Neville into Billingbear Park, with the pack at his haunches; where running directly into a herd of fallow deer and the hounds (not uſed to ſtag-hunting) proceeding upon the principle, that "one deſerter's as good as another," individually attacked the whole of the herd, dividing and driving them in all directions to every part of the park, conſtituting a ſcene much eaſier conceived than deſcribed; and conſequently of the moſt diſtreſſing embarraſſment to the only unaſſiſted horſeman then up, who was of courſe moſt reſentfully looked to for the moment (by the

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fascinated family from the house) as the personal cause of a confusion that not less than the accumulating assistance of two hours could put an end to.

These vexatious interventions, with the successive deaths of his different deer, produced even in the first season, a temporary suspension of the hunt for want of game. To compensate, in some degree, for which a bag fox was fortunately obtained, and being by the humane sagacity of the huntsman, plentifully basted with oil of anniseed to insure the credit of killing; he was turned out upon Toutley Common (the verge of Windsor Forest), and though the hounds were laid on almost in view, he led them a most excellent chace of two hours and gallantly beat them upon the open heath near Swinley, from which, when fairly beaten, they were speedily drawn off, to prevent a repetition with his Majesty's herd, of the disaster that had previously happened in Billingbear Park.

After having gone through his course of initiation and progressive study in the school of infamy at Newmarket, and attended the experimental lectures of the first professors of duplicity and deception; as well as bettered his scientific knowledge in the art of manual defence, by a personal intimacy with the most brutal and abandoned boxers of the age, his love of novelty and unbounded appetite for variety yet remained insatiate, and afforded him opportunity to give a peculiar polish to the brilliancy of the whole by an association with the unsullied integrity, the unaffected wit, and the professional purity of a theatrical green room.

To this epidemic miasma, every previous and predominant passion became instantaneously subservient, and by a kind of infectious infatuation he was pantomimically surrounded with all the rapacious sharks and necessitous dependents of the drama. Never permitting his plans to be arraigned at the bar of reflection, or become subject to the salutary dictates of reason; he in direct uniformity with the precipitance and indiscretion that so eminently distinguished every undertaking, immediately engaged in the most ridiculous, expensive, profuse and prodigal scheme, that ever signalized a predilection for private theatricals. In confirmation of which, he set at defiance every weak attempt of each diminutive competitor, and without the most distant reference to expence, absolutely and expeditiously erected a new theatre, with all the necessary requisites and fashionable appendages, in a remote corner of the country, possessing every convenience, every internal em-

bellishment that could be suggested by fancy, designed by art, or executed by ingenuity.

The same magnificence that pervaded the structure was systematically extended to every inferior apartment and the most trivial office of the whole; the green and dressing rooms were adorned with a superflux of ornamental furniture in the highest stile of elegance; every portable article upon the premises was of the most expensive kind, and the wardrobe alone exceeded 2000l. in the purchase. The unfortunate perseverance in a scheme of such hasty adoption (in addition to the long list that had gone before) laid the foundation of pecuniary difficulties, the ill effects of which were constantly increasing, and became more heavily perceptible to the last hour of his life, as well as after his death*. It constituted a connection (once formed not to be shaken off) with that class of theatrical cormorants, to whose expectations there is no end; to whose hopes there is no termination. Habituated to a solicitation of favours, without the power to return, or the gratitude to acknowledge them, they become gradationally calloused to the original cause, the beneficent source of every contribution; never omitting the ambitious gratification of placing much more to the score of their own intrinsic worth and personal merit, than the most generous patronage, the most unbounded liberality.

(To be continued.)

* The household furniture at his dwelling-house at Wargrave, having been immediately advertised for sale by auction, under "a distress for rent."

ON WAGERS.

To the PRINTER.

SIR,

I Believe that the practice of laying wagers, if not confined to our own country, at least had its origin here. The *rationale* of wagering, unless considered merely as a species of gambling, has so far exceeded my comprehension, that I know not any thing to attribute wagering to unless vanity and avarice. The latter, it must be confessed, is motive enough, too often, to persuade men to risk a small sum of money, in hopes of gaining a greater, or even to hazard their lives in some un-

common experiment, the fortunate reſult of which appears extremely improbable.

Converſing on this ſubject, a few nights ago, with a friend, I expreſſed a wiſh that I could procure a collection of curious wagers, that they might furniſh me with ſome opportunity for conſidering the extraordinary and extravagant taſte in men to encourage ſuch trials of ſkill. My friend told me, he had a ſmall collection at my ſervice, of ſuch as took place in his younger days, "and which," added he, "are moſtly recent in my memory; for I took no ſmall ſhare in the expenſive anxiety that occurs before the performance of ſome famous bet." The liſt he gave me, I have tranſcribed in part; and as he permitted me to make a free uſe of his manuſcripts, I have ſubjoined ſome reflections which he made, when age and ſerious buſineſs demonſtrated the folly of riſking money on chance-ſchemes, or on events which it is not in our power to controul either one way or other.

In this liſt will be found ſome exertions of uncommon ſkill and induſtry, which are laudable, and merit every encouragement; but the major part of the inſtances are of quite another kind, and though ſo wonderful as to excite our admiration and aſtoniſhment, and even, perhaps, to exceed our belief, yet we may ſay of them, *Cui bono?* To what purpoſe are ſuch uncommon feats, which can never be applied to the public good, and which ſeem to be, like a pack of cards, merely the inſtruments of transferring money from the pocket of the ſimple into that of the cunning? But I wave my own reflections, and ſubmit my friend's curious liſt.

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June 26, 1759. Jeniſon Shaftoe, Eſq. ſtarted againſt time, to ride 50 miles in two hours; in the courſe of which he uſed 10 horſes, and did it in two ſeconds under 11 minutes of the time preſcribed by the articles, to the aſtoniſhment of all preſent.

February 21, 1761. A gentleman, who had undertaken to ride one horſe 100 miles in 13 hours, for 200 guineas, ſtarted from Whitechapel-church, rode twice to Market-end and back again (which is 100 miles) in 12 hours.

March 3, ſame year. Four Welch women walked from the foot of Weſtminſter-bridge to the Boot and Crown over Deptford bridge, and back again, in an hour and three quarters, for a wager of 20l. They were allowed two hours and a half.

half. The wager was between a gardener and a farmer; the gardener laying that they would perform it.

April 16. Two horfes ftarted at Whitechapel-church, to proceed 100 miles; that is, to the 50 mile-ftone near Colchefter, and back again, in 12 hours. On their return, one of them died at Boreham (the 32 mile-ftone) having performed 68 miles of the journey: The other crawled through Chelmsford, with a lad on his back, and died at Widford (the 27 mile-ftone), wanting 23 miles to win the bet. Execrations, on the whole road, attended the brutal owners of the two fine animals that were thus cruelly facrificed.

April 18. A very extraordinary wager was laid by two gentlemen, at a coffee-houfe near Temple-bar, one of whom was to jump into feven feet of water with his clothes on, and to entirely undrefs himfelf in the water; which if he failed to accomplifh he was to lofe.—Not decided.

May 31. An afs went 100 miles in 21 hours at Newmarket. The bet was 100l. to 10l. he did not perform it in 24 hours, and the owner won 40l. to 20l.

June 1. Was decided a remarkable wager of 1000 guineas, between Mr. Shaftoe and Mr. Meynel, that a man rode 2900 miles 29 days fucceffively, upon 29 horfes; each horfe to ride a 100 miles, which was performed without much difficulty, by Mr. Woodcock.

June 18. A porter in St. James's-market, eat four pounds of beef-ftakes with a butcher's dog, fooneft and beft, for a wager, and won it by feveral mouthfuls.

June 22. One Paine, a blackfmith, belonging to the Dock-yard, Chatham, walked from Brompton to London-bridge, and back again (which is upwards of 62 miles) for a wager of three guineas. He was allowed 16 hours to perform it in, and came in about fix minutes before the time expired, though he ftopt two hours on the road for refrefhment.

July 14. Two reprobate watermen, that were waiting at Billingfgate for the coming up of a fifh boat, laid a wager of their boats, which of them could fwear the moft wicked and prophane oaths; but upon one of them giving out, the other beginning to triumph, was inftantly deprived of the ufe of his fpeech, and alfo the ufe of his right hand and leg, in which fituation he was taken to an hofpital.

July 2. A falt officer at Droitwich, and another man having laid a wager which could drink moft neat rum, the falt officer, after he had drunk a quart, dropped down dead.

July 22. A perſon in Leeds, rode his common hackney from thence to Hull, and back again, which is 130 miles, in 19 hours and 22 minutes; he was allowed 20 hours.

December 17. The Right Hon. Thomas Conolly rode, for a wager of 500 guineas, on the Curragh of Kildare. He was allowed two hours to ride 40 miles, with any 10 hunters of his own. He with eaſe rode 42 miles in an hour and 44 minutes, on eight hunters.

January 18, 1762. Mr. Johnſon, of Coventry, having laid a wager of 20 guineas, that he rode from London to Coventry, which is 91 miles, in 10 hours, ſet out from Tyburn-road in the morning, at five o'clock, and arrived at the White Bear, in Coventry, exactly at 53 minutes paſt one in the afternoon; ſo that he performed it in an hour and ſeven minutes leſs than the time. He rode without boots, and took every ſtage a freſh horſe, which no previous notice had been given to get ready.

February 2. A man undertook to walk ſeven miles in an hour and five minutes, on the Kingſland-road, for a wager of 30 guineas; and performed it in an hour, four minutes, and two ſeconds. Great bets were depending.

April 7. Mr. Longbottom, boot-maker, in Holborn, rode his own horſe on the Rumford road againſt time. He was to ride 17 miles and an half in one hour, and had one minute and a quarter to ſpare when he was brought in; but as he was ſupported on each ſide the horſe, to prevent his falling, the laſt two miles, by the knowing ones, who had bets depending, it was given againſt him, as he did not perform what he undertook to do. He was put to bed at the Bird in Hand, at Stratford, and was ſuppoſed to be in a very dangerous way.

May 24. Child, the noted miller of Wandſworth, walked on Wimbledon Common, 44 miles in ſeven hours, 57 minutes, which he performed with eaſe in three minutes leſs than was allowed, for a conſiderable wager, and bye bets.

Auguſt 9. Mr. John Hague of Binns, near Marſden, undertook, for a conſiderable wager, to walk 100 miles in 24 hours, and performed the ſame in 23 hours and 15 minutes.

Auguſt 26. A journeyman nailer of Cork, propoſed to ſome of his pot companions, at a houſe in Blarney-lane, a wager, that he would ſwallow an egg whole, which he attempted to do, after greaſing it with butter, but unfortunately the egg ſtuck in his throat; on which an elderly gentlewoman in the neighbourhood, of reputed ſkill, was called in, who gave him a

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chuck on the windpipe, which determined the matter by his ſudden death.

September 1. Two men had a trial of ſkill in jumping, in the Artillery-ground, for 50l. each; one jumped through, his hands tied together, 10 jumps ſucceſſively; while the other was allowed to take a run between each jump. The wager was won by the former, who was reckoned to do the moſt dexterous thing ever performed.

September 3, and 4. A foot race was performed againſt time, by John France of Slaithwaite, in the pariſh of Huddersfield, for a conſiderable wager. He was allowed 28 hours to run 100 miles, and won by only ſix minutes.

November 3. Two draymen, in Tooley-ſtreet, drank gin for a wager; he that firſt gave out, to pay for it; when, after they had drank a quart each, one was ſeized with the hiccups, and expired in two hours after.

December 22. A wager of 1000l. againſt 50, laid ſometime before, by two gentlemen of note in the city, was determined and paid. The fact in queſtion was, whether the preliminaries of peace were ſigned the 2d or the 3d of November. He that betted the 1000l. opined for the 2d, and was ſo poſitive as to lay againſt 50l. but the matter being proved againſt him, he generouſly paid. It is probable, his poſitiveneſs in this wager aroſe from his correſpondent's wrong information by 12 hours. The Plenipotentiaries did agree about all the preliminaries the 2d of November, at night, over a bottle, but did not ſign them till the next morning.

January 17, 1763. A gentleman, for a wager of 10 guineas, undertook to take up 100 ſtones, at a yard diſtant from each other, on the Serpentine river in Hyde-park, by ſkaiting within the hour, which he performed in 51 minutes.

February 9. A baker in Whitecroſs-ſtreet, for a wager of 100 guineas to 10, drew a weight of 20lb. by a ſingle cord, from one end of the Mall in St. James's-park, to the other (the weight being placed at one end of the Mall and he at the other) which he performed in 24 minutes. He was allowed half an hour to do it.

February 16. A man who ſold fiſh about Chelſea, Fulham, &c. undertook to run from Hyde-park-corner to the ſeven mile ſtone at Brentford, in one hour, with 56lb. weight of fiſh on his head, which he performed with eaſe in 45 minutes. This was reckoned the moſt extraordinary affair that had been executed for many years.

About

About the ſame time, a man, who was to run a coach-wheel, eight miles within an hour, performed it in St George's-fields, in 59 minutes and a half, on a platform of wood erected a quarter of a mile in length, and about two inches from the ground. There were many bets depending, and many perſons of diſtinction preſent.

(To be concluded in our next.)

INTERESTING TRIALS.

WESTMINSTER-HALL, *February* 22.

WRIGHT *and* OTHERS, BANKERS, *verſus* REILLEY *and* CO.

THIS was an action brought by the plaintiffs, as the holders of the Bill of Exchange for 200l. which was drawn at Waterford in Ireland, and dated September 9th, 1791, payable 75 days after date, to the order of the defendant. Reilley and Co. indorſed it over to a Mr. Taylor, who diſcounted it with the plaintiffs. Mr. Taylor in his evidence ſaid, it was the hand-writing of Reilley; and on being croſs-examined by Mr. Erſkine, he ſaid he now knew this bill was drawn in London and not in Ireland, as had been ſuppoſed. That the acceptor had declared it to be ſo. That the bill was given to him to diſcount, and no ſtamp was then upon it. This was in November 1791.

Lord Kenyon—As the ſtamp is upon it now, I ſhall take it to be correct.

Mr. Erſkine—By the poſitive words of the act, it cannot be ſtamped except within a fortnight after it bears date.

Mr. Baldwin—I remember a nonſuit on account of the want of a ſtamp to a bill, and a new trial granted, and the bill was ſtamped in the mean time.

Lord Kenyon—I knew deeds that affected a very great eſtate in the county of Cheſter, that were not ſtamped at firſt, but were ſtamped years afterwards, and that gave effect to them.

Mr. Erſkine read a clauſe of 31 Geo. III. c. 25. which ſays, that no bill of exchange or promiſſory note ſhall be ſtamped except within 14 days of the date of it.

Mr. Bearcroft contended, that the prohibition of the law was only that a bill ſhould not be read without a ſtamp.

Mr. Mingay

Mr. Mingay thought it a queſtion of very general importance, and that the opinion of the Court of King's Bench ought to be taken on it.

Lord Kenyon ſaid that he ſhould ſave this point for the conſideration of the Court, whether the conſtruction of the act of Parliament required that it ſhould have been ſtamped within 14 days of the date of it.

COURT *of* KING's BENCH.

WEDNESDAY, April 24.

Habeas Corpus.

MR. LAW reminded the Court, that laſt term a writ of *Habeas Corpus* was granted at the inſtance of his client, Mr. Hargrave, for the production of his four children, detained in the cuſtody of his wife. The learned Counſel ſtated, that his client had for ſome time been denied acceſs to his offspring, and this prohibition had been deemed neceſſary, to ſecure them from his fury, while under the paroxyſms of inſanity, produced by exceſſive and habitual intemperance. But now the exceſſes which led to thoſe outrages on his family are entirely ſubdued, and his only propenſities were to promote the intereſt and happineſs of his family, as he could eſtabliſh by voluminous affidavits which he held in his hand.

In diſcharging his duty to his client, he would not urge any claim that might ſubject the children to oppreſſion from a relapſe of inſanity, or wound the feelings of their mother by a total ſeparation. He meant therefore to ſuggeſt a plan which he truſted would be acceptable to the parties, and meet the approbation of their Lordſhips. The propoſition was, that the children ſhould be placed under the care of a near relation, where their father ſhould at all times have acceſs; ſubject, however, to removal at the diſcretion of the Court, who, in conjunction with the relatives, would act as guardians in caſe of death, or any contingency.

The Court thought this a fair and honourable propoſal, and adviſed the Counſel on the other ſide to accede to it; and likewiſe directed the children to be reſtored to their mother, who appeared irreconcileable to her huſband, and to remain with her during the interval of negociation.

CHALLENGE.

LAST term Mr. Erſkine obtained a rule, calling upon the defendant, Mr. Lewcock, to ſhew cauſe, why a criminal information ſhould not be filed againſt him for giving a verbal challenge to Mr. Benſon.

It appeared from the affidavits, that a ſlight miſunderſtanding ſubſiſted between the parties, which induced the defendant to uſe opprobrious language, and to inſiſt on Mr. Benſon naming his time, place, and weapons, for he was determined to fight him.

Mr. Bower, in ſhewing cauſe, ſtated, that he was not inſtructed, neither was it his inclination, to juſtify, but merely to apologiſe for the act of his client, who, in a ſtate of ebriety, when wine and paſſion had got the better of his judgment, over-ſtepped the bounds of decency, and expoſed himſelf to the ſeverity of the law. In ſeveral letters, the ſubſtance of which was read, Mr. Lewcock acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and his readineſs to make any retribution in his power for the outrage. In reply Mr. Benſon declared, that he would accept of no apology for the outrage, and that he was determined to appeal to the laws of his country for redreſs.

The Court were of opinion, that the defendant could not juſtify an aſſault by a miſdemeanor, and ordered the rule to be made abſolute.

COURT *of* KING's BENCH.

PRICE *verſus* SAMS.

WEDNESDAY, May 15.

THIS was an action of a ſingular nature. It was brought againſt the defendant, who keeps the Bull Inn in Holborn, to recover the value of a turkey, which it was alledged he had converted to his own uſe.

Mr. Erſkine, Counſel for the plaintiff, ſaid, that this action was of importance to the public, who were frequently impoſed upon by innkeepers; ſome of whom made it a practice to charge more than they had a right to receive for porterage of parcels.

It

It appeared in evidence, that the plaintiff, who was an eminent attorney in Lincoln's Inn Fields, had a turkey ſent him from the country with the carriage paid, which arrived at the Bull Inn. It was ſent from thence by a porter to the plaintiff's houſe; the porter charged ſixpence for the porterage; this charge was deemed an impoſition, and fourpence was offered, but the porter refuſed to receive it, and took the turkey away; the plaintiff, accompanied by his ſervant, went to the Bull-Inn, and demanded the turkey, tendering fourpence for the porterage; the defendant's wife (who manages the buſineſs) refuſed to deliver it, ſaying the porterage came to ſixpence, and therefore ſhe could not take fourpence, but at laſt ſhe relented, and as the plaintiff and his ſervant were going out of the inn, ſhe called after them, ſaying—"Take your turkey, I'll have no more trouble about it;" but to this the plaintiff made no reply. The turkey was not afterwards ſent to the plaintiff's houſe, but had been ever ſince hanging up in the defendant's yard.

It was proved, that fourpence was a ſufficient ſum for the porterage. The ground was meaſured, and it appeared that the diſtance was three furlongs, ten poles, and four yards.

The Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages 7s. the value of the turkey, but the action being in trover, the defendant muſt pay all coſts.

It will coſt him above 50l. for a diſpute about twopence.

COURT *of* KING's BENCH.

WEEDIN *verſus* TURNBULL.

CRIM. CON.

THURSDAY, May 16.

THIS was an action to recover from the defendant a ſatisfaction in damages for criminal converſation with the plaintiff's wife.

Mr. Garrow, Counſel for the plaintiff, ſtated the caſe with great candour and his uſual ability. The plaintiff, he ſaid, intermarried with his wife in the year 1774; and the fruit of their marriage was no leſs than ten children, the eldeſt of which was about ſeventeen years of age. They had lived together with great felicity and domeſtic harmony, up to the period the plaintiff became acquainted with the defendant, which was in

the year 1790. The defendant was an Exciseman, and a preacher at a diſſenting meeting-houſe, to which the plaintiff and his wife were accuſtomed to reſort.

It was proved by the teſtimony of two witneſſes, that the plaintiff and his wife had lived happily together till the defendant came to lodge at the plaintiff's houſe; ſoon after which ſeveral indecencies were obſerved to paſs between the defendant and the lady; but the evidence did not go the length of proving any poſitive act of adultery, till after a ſeparation by mutual conſent had taken place between the plaintiff and his wife.

The plaintiff, under the direction of Lord Kenyon, was nonſuited.

SYMPATHETIC INK.

THE ſympathetic ink made by zaffre diſſolved in the marine and nitrous acids have this curious property, that being brought to the fire one of them becomes green, and the other red; but what is more wonderful, they again loſe thoſe colours, (unleſs the heat has been too great,) on their being again withdrawn from the fire. Fire ſcreens have been thus painted, which in the cold have ſhewn only the trunk and branches of a dead tree, and ſandy hills, which on their approach to the fire have put forth green leaves and red flowers, and graſs upon the mountains. The proceſs of making theſe inks is very eaſy. Take zaffre, as ſold by the druggiſts, and digeſt it in *aqua regia*, and the calx of cobalt will be diſſolved; which ſolution muſt be diluted with a little common water to prevent it from making too ſtrong an impreſſion on the paper; the colour when the paper is heated becomes of a fine green-blue. If zaffre or regulus of cobalt be diſſolved in the ſame manner in ſpirit of nitre, or *aqua fortis*, a reddiſh colour is produced on expoſing the paper to heat.

The ASS LADEN *with* PREFERMENT.

AN ANECDOTE.

A Dean of Canterbury, who by marrying Archbiſhop Potter's daughter, became poſſeſſed of ſix or ſeven different pieces, to the amount of above 4000l. a year, of the church revenue, by way of marriage-portion, was the gentleman who gave

gave occaſion to ſo many jokes and witticiſms, and whom the celebrated Hogarth ſatirized in the print of the aſs laden with preferment. But dull and heavy as the Dean was ſuppoſed to be, he had the addreſs to blunt the keenneſs of raillery when attacked. Upon the publication of that print, ſome officers of the guards, at St. James's coffee-houſe, which the Dean uſually frequented, when in town, deſirous of having, as they expreſſed it, a little fun by ſmoaking the Dean, placed the print in a conſpicuous part of the coffee-room, where it muſt unavoidably be obſerved. The Dean, upon viewing it with a crowd of thoſe gentlemen about him, in expectation of ſeeing him much mortified and embarraſſed, gave the joke a pleaſant turn, by exclaiming aloud; "You, ſee, gentlemen, Maſter Hogarth has repreſented me here, as bending under the weight of my different preferments; but he is much miſtaken, I can bear a great deal more ſtill." The officers ſhrunk off abaſhed, having miſſed their aim, and diſappointed of their joke.

REMARK *on the* DISCOVERY *of* GUNPOWDER.

THERE is a bitter invective in Don Quixote againſt the inventors of gunpowder, as it levels the ſtrong with the weak, the Knight caſed in ſteel with the naked ſhepherd, thoſe who have been trained to the ſword with thoſe who are totally unſkilful in the uſe of it; and throws down all the ſplendid diſtinctions of mankind. Theſe very reaſons ought to have been urged to ſhew that the diſcovery of gunpowder has been of publick utility by weakening the tyranny of the few over the many.

Anſwer, by Fidelio, of Bath, to R. Uren's Charade, inſerted February 25.

WHEN Gallia's ſons, at miſchief ſo expert,
Eſſay'd our conſtitution to ſubvert,
The loyalty evinc'd in Britiſh hearts
Render'd abortive their perfidious arts:

So if they openly our iſle attack,
Our valour will, I truſt, ſoon drive them back;

Shew them fraternization we deteſt,
That genuine PATRIOTiſm fires our breaſt;
And that (howe'er their bleſſings they enhance)
England will ne'er a province be of France.

‡ We have received the like anſwer from S. Hill, of Dawliſh; W. Hoare, of Dean Prior; Curioſus, of Bath; Eremita, of Weſton Zoyland; J. Bulgin, of Caſtle Carey; and T. Giles, of Bridgewater.

Anſwer, by J. Collins, of Uffculm, to O. S.'s Rebus, inſerted the 25th of February.

IF I have judg'd your meaning right,
'Twas DOVER town—now brought to ſight.

‡*‡ We have received the like anſwer from S. Hill, of Dawliſh; J. Brown, of Mr. Tucker's ſchool, Broadwinſor; T. Welch, near Wiveliſcombe; A. Pinn, of Exmouth; Eremita, of Weſton Zoyland; J. Traer, and Edward Giddy, of Truro; W. Brewer, of Taunton; T. Giles, of Bridgewater; and T. Walker, of Hemyock.

A REBUS, *by O. S. of Briſtol.*

COME ye bards, attend my ditty,
Find half a flower and half a city;
Then half of what is under ground,
And half a paſſion muſt be found:
Theſe parts if you aright cement,
Of muſic ſhew an inſtrument.

A QUESTION, *by Fidelio, of Bath.*

GIVEN $x+y+xy=8$, and $x^2y=$ a maximum, to find x and y.

An ENIGMA, *by Curioſus, of Bath.*

NOW ſmiling ſpring renews the year,
And nature's infant tribe appears,

Indulg'd

Indulg'd by morn's reviving dews,
See contemplation's ſoaring views,
Now buſy muſing o'er their birth,
And vents in pureſt ſtrains their worth.
When from dark chaos all was made,
Omniſcience call'd, lo! we obey'd.
In nature ſimply clad and free,
For mortal uſe, oh good decree!
Soft genial ſhow'rs invite our train,
Whoſe humble ſtation decks the plain.
In zealous aim when pow'rful ſkill
Attempts our goodneſs to diſtil,
We readily our freedom give,
That man his bleſſings may receive;
Thoſe lenient virtues we poſſeſs,
Are known the ſick'ned wound to bleſs;
T' invigorate weak nature's frame,
And quench diſeaſe's raging flame;
Be baniſh'd far corroding grief,
Nor dare to intercept relief.
With careful hand—but hold, no more—
Your wit and judgement can explore
E'en nature's ſecrets—why you'll ſay,
Then is ſhe cloth'd in dark array
When her own robes, ſuperior dreſs,
All artificial aims depreſs.

*** *We earneſtly requeſt our Correſpondents to be more careful to render the different Productions they ſend correct, that we may not be obliged to leave them out on Account of their Want of Merit.—We would alſo caution the Writers of Enigmas, Rebuſſes, Charades, Queſtions, &c. &c. againſt ſending any but ſuch as are original.*

‡‖‡ *Our Correſpondents who ſend Queſtions, Enigmas, Charades, Rebuſſes, or Anagrams, are requeſted to ſend with them their genuine Solutions, as otherwiſe we ſhall not chuſe to inſert them.*

***. *Enigmatical liſts of the names of young ladies generally give offence, and cannot, therefore, have a place.*

‖‡‖ *Our Correſpondents are requeſted to obſerve that it is expected they ſhould pay the Poſtage of their Letters, and that otherwiſe they will not ſee what they ſend inſerted.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

THE WISH.

By Mr. MERRICK.

HOW ſhort is life's uncertain ſpace!
Alas, how quickly done!
How ſwift the wild precarious chace!
And yet how difficult the race!
How very hard to run!

Youth ſtops at firſt its wilful ears
To wiſdom's prudent voice;
'Till now arriv'd to riper years,
Experienc'd age worn out with cares
Repents its earlier choice.

What tho' its proſpects now appear
So pleaſing and refin'd;
Yet groundleſs hope, and anxious fear,
By turns the buſy moments ſhare,
And prey upon the mind.

Since then falſe joys our fancy cheat
With hopes of real bliſs;
Ye guardian powers that rule my fate,
The only wiſh that I create,
Is all compriz'd in this:

May I thro' life's uncertain tide,
Be ſtill from pain exempt!
May all my wants be ſtill ſupply'd!
My ſtate too low t'admit of pride,
And yet above contempt.

But ſhould your Providence divine
A greater bliſs intend;

May

May all thoſe bleſſings you deſign,
(If e'er thoſe bleſſings ſhall be mine)
Be center'd in a friend!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Written on the Grave of a Beggar.

BEHOLD, his age of ſorrow paſt,
Beyond the reach of mortal woe,
Where life's poor trav'ller reſts at laſt;
Arriv'd where long he ſigh'd to go.

The peace—the comfort, man denied,
Juſt Death allows him now to ſhare;
And ſcares, avengeful, living pride,
That would have urg'd him to deſpair.

Here, ſhelter'd from unfeeling ſcorn,
He harbours, to be ſpurn'd no more;
Pluck'd from his heart, Affliction's thorn,
Which Patience, unrepining, bore!

No longer, ſick'ning and unfed,
The bread, which Riot waſtes, he views,
By ſlaves forbade to touch that bread
Till pamper'd dogs the meal refuſe.

No more, leſs cruel than the proud,
With thoughtleſs, unavailing rage,
O'er him the tempeſt, raving loud,
Unpitying, ſtrikes his drooping age.

No ſooner, naked doom'd to roam,
Storm, age, and care, his form ſhall bend;
The houſeleſs now has found a home;—
The weary, reſt—and want a friend!

When the cold grave, that gives thee peace,
Thoſe who denied it ſhall conceal,
Like thine, oh may their ſorrows ceaſe!
Forgot the pangs they bade thee feel.

T. L.

May 6, 1793.

THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

[From an Ode to Melancholy, by Mr. Hole.]

EVER-CHANGING, ever new,
Thoſe air-ſpun viſions, Fancy weaves delight,
Tho' tinctur'd with the rainbow's varying hue,
Whoſe every tear is cloth'd in light,
They ſtrike with chaſten'd joy the mental ſight.

I yield to thy controuling ſway:
With thee, my guide, I bend my way
To Egypt's diſtant ſhore;
Egypt, once fam'd for arts, and wiſdom's ſacred lore.

How fall'n! yet ſtill thy pyramids ſublime
Rear their bold heads, and mock the rage of time;
Unknown their mighty builder's name,
They tower aloft, man's glory and his ſhame.

Thro' the drear catacombs I ſtray,
Where reſt the manes of the royal dead;
And by a dim-decaying taper led,
Urge, muſing on, my doubtful way—
The walls e'er dank with dew: Low murmurs ſound,
Night, ſhadowy night, now cloſes thick around.

Behold! from yonder widely-yawning tomb
The great Seſoſtris riſes to my view.
As ſlow he moves along the ſilent dome,
I mark his robes that glow with Tyrian hue;
The golden ſceptre waving in his hand,
And awful brow, that ſpeak his high command.

In faded ſplendour, yet with haughtier mien,
Succeeding Kings appear: And as they glide
In ſolemn ſilence through the pageant ſcene,
On me they bend their fiery eyes of pride;
I ſee wild horror on each brow pourtray'd,
And horror in each bloodleſs cheek diſplay'd.

Vaniſh, oh vaniſh from my ſight,
Tyrannic ſhades, beneath whoſe ſway
Earth trembled—and behold, in night
The fear-form'd ſpectres fade away.